FULLRECO4US VIRTUAL MOBILITY GRANTS - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024

The **COST Action CA20133** "Cross-border transfer and development of sustainable resource recovery strategies towards zero waste" ("FULLRECO4US") encourages and supports the **Virtual Mobility Grants (VMs)**. The **aim of VMs** is to strengthen existing networks by enabling individual researchers from one COST country to participate in research activities carried out in institutions in other COST countries, in order to foster collaboration and contribute to the scientific objectives of COST Action CA20133.

Virtual mobility refers to activities that do not require physical travel but involve online collaboration, communication and knowledge sharing between researchers or participants of different countries. The focus is on facilitating collaboration, sharing expertise and networking through virtual means such as videoconferencing and other digital platforms.

Until **September 30, 2024**, there is **one VM** to be awarded and conducted. The VM applicants are Action participants with a primary affiliation to an Institution located in a COST Full or Cooperating Member country or a COST Near Neighbour Country participating in the COST Action CA20133. Applicants are invited to apply **up to March 31, 2024**. Please note that VMs must be in line with the general COST Action CA20133 goals and objectives (https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA20133/).

The applicants shall inform the MC about the aim of the VM Grant and how its outcomes will generate benefits to the Action CA20133, actively contribute to the overall objectives and relevant deliverables of the Action.

PROPOSED TOPIC

This VM grant (1000 €) supports a candidate who contributes to the communication plan of the FULLRECO4US COST Action. More specifically, the candidate will build an interactive database of international experts, and local waste management regulatory organizations throughout COST member countries. Furthermore, the candidate will support the interaction between different communication platforms, such as the website, LinkedIn and X. The candidate will also create an automatic mailing system for the management committee and working group members. Finally, the candidate will support ad-hoc communication efforts, such as the organization of online seminars or other events. The candidate therefore has demonstrated web design expertise, additional programming skills are an asset. The VM will take place from April 2024 until August 2024.

MC Contact person: Prof. Pieter Billen (pieter.billen@uantwerpen.be).

RULES

The selection of successful candidates is made by the VM Coordinator following the recommendations of the MC Contact person, WG Leaders, MC Chair and Action Core Group. The VM Coordinator informs the Grant Holder (GH) about successful candidate and then the GH sends a grant letter generated

from e-COST system to the approved applicant. The grant letter must be signed by the applicant and returned to the GH.
- A VM grant is a fixed contribution based on the budget previously approved by the MC.
- After the VM, the grantee must upload in the e-COST system and submit to the Host a **scientific report** within **30 days after** the end of the grant period.
- The VM grant will be paid after the acceptance of the scientific report by the MC and Host Institution.

APPLICATION

If you are interested in applying, complete the **on-line application available at your eCOST account** (https://e-services.cost.eu), after **selecting COST Action CA20133** (Grant Applications, left menu; + Apply for grant) up to **31st March 2024**. More information on the procedures is available in the user guide (https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2021/12/Grant-Awarding-userguide.pdf).

The following supporting documents must be included in the application:

- **Work plan** specifying 1) the main objective of the VM grant; 2) the work plan including the description of the collaborative initiative to be carried out; 3) the participation plan describing the list of participants in the collaborative initiative with a short description of their expertise and expected contribution); 4) the main expected results and their contribution to progress towards the objectives and results of Action CA20133; 5) how the VM will contribute to the COST CA20133 strategy; and 6) start and end dates.

The template is available at www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_application;

- A **written agreement** of the **host** institution;
- A **letter of support** from the **home** institution;
- **CV** (2 pages), including **major skills** and a list of selected **publications**.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed by the Cost Action CA20133 MC Contact person, WG leaders, the Core Group and the VM Coordinator according to the following criteria:
- Adequacy of the scientific background of the applicant to the proposed workplan;
- Scientific quality and relevance of the work plan. Namely, how well it addresses the proposed topics and the COST Action CA20133 objectives;
- Anticipated outcomes in respect of COST Action CA20133 objectives;
- Contribution to personal development of the candidate;
- Other criteria include early career, gender balance and geographical inclusiveness.

After the VM

The grantee is obliged to upload a short scientific report and submit to the host institution (for information) and to the VM Coordinator or MC Core Group (for approval) within 30 days after the end date of the VM.
The report must contain the following information 1) a description of the work carried out during the VM; 2) a description of the main outcomes of the VM and planned follow-up activities.
The template is available at www.cost.eu/virtual_mobility_grant_report;

In addition, A letter from the Host Institution confirming the successful completion of the work plan must also be submitted;

Please note that **failure to submit the scientific report on time** will effectively **cancel the grant**.

The VM Coordinator will inform the GH about the acceptance of the report. Afterwards, the GH will execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee or to home institution as stated in the application form.